

REMARKS

This is in response to a Final Office Action dated 15 September 2009.

The undersigned thanks Examiner Nguyen for his courtesies during a telephone interview on September 9, 2009.

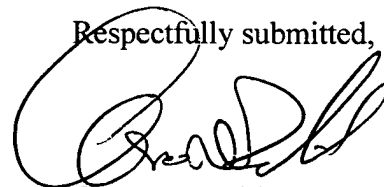
In the current Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner is requiring that the reinforcing element in the form of a grommet or reinforcing tape (14') must be shown as recited on page 2 of the specification and recited in claim 44 and 45. Figures 4, 5 and 6 have been corrected and are being supplied as Replacement Sheets.

The Examiner rejected Claims 39 and 42-58 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunsley U.S. patent 6,748,896 in view of Hassinger U.S. Patent 5,010,667.

The Examiner objected to Claim 40 and 41 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have amended Claims 39 and 41, and have canceled Claims 40, 42, and 43 in compliance with the Examiner's comments with regard to Allowable Subject Matter.,

Accordingly, the subject Application is in condition for immediate Allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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